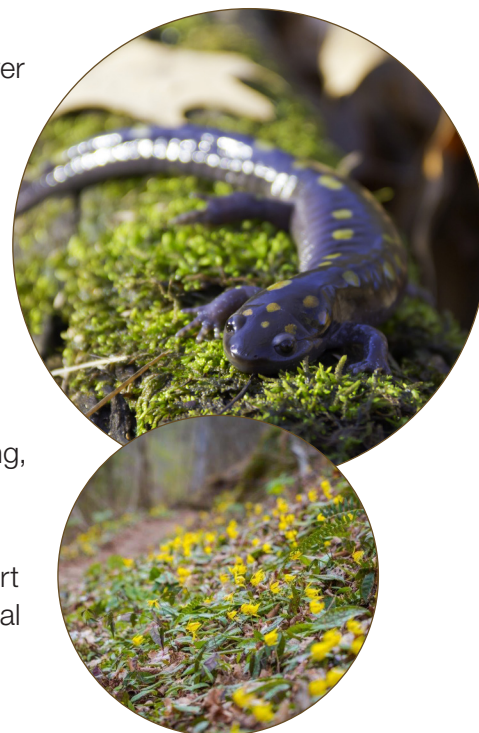


TVA is updating the 2011 Natural Resource Plan (NRP), which contained six Resource Areas centered on stewardship activities. The 2020 NRP has been expanded to include ten proposed Focus Areas that tell a comprehensive story of TVA's work in natural resources. The NRP is a strategic document that, over the next 15 to 20 years, will guide the direction of TVA's resource stewardship on the 11,000 miles of shoreline and 293,000 acres of public land under its care. Land and Habitat Stewardship is one of the ten proposed Focus Areas.

The Tennessee River's 41,000 square-mile watershed along with TVA's 293,000 acres of public land, 11,000 miles of reservoir shoreline, and an even larger power service area, that spans portions of seven states, provide a canvas for TVA to manage its natural resources and enhance wildlife habitat.

Land and Habitat Stewardship refers to the management of natural resources such as land, plants, and animals with a particular focus on how that management brings value and benefit for both present and future generations. Changing conditions as a result of damage from natural events (storms, disease, and insects) and impacts from public use require proactive resource management. TVA's land and habitat stewardship on public lands provides a valued diversity of habitats, including native plant communities. This provides complementary opportunities including hunting, fishing, camping, hiking, biking, photography and wildlife viewing.

TVA works closely with various local, state, and federal agencies, non-governmental organizations, industries, and stakeholders to develop and support conservation planning strategies. For example, TVA has partnered to craft federal refuge management plans and comprehensive state-wide conservation plans. TVA's management efforts often align with interagency goals and objectives.



## Benefits:

- Increases planning, protection, and management of sensitive resources (e.g. threatened and endangered species, wetlands, natural areas)
- Improves implementation measures through adaptive management approaches and partnership opportunities
- Enhances wildlife habitat and biological diversity promotion through restoration and maintenance of native plant communities using ecologically sound management practices
- Expands partnerships to further resource stewardship efforts in the region
- Increases opportunities for outdoor public use

## Objectives:

- Improve protection and monitoring of sensitive resources on TVA land
- Enhance biological diversity and wildlife habitat
- Improve forest health and associated ecological benefits
- Improve interagency relationships and partnership efforts toward mutual stewardship goals

## Programs:

Much of the work described in the Land and Habitat Stewardship focus area was categorized in the Biological Resources area in the 2011 NRP, which contained nineteen programs. In the 2020 NRP, the proposed Land and Habitat Stewardship focus area includes eight programs, and these programs align the NRP more consistently with how TVA manages the natural resources of the Tennessee Valley. TVA proposes to reclassify or combine the remaining 2011 NRP programs into other programs or focus areas.

### THREATENED AND ENDANGERED SPECIES

The Threatened and Endangered Species program addresses compliance with Section 7 of the Endangered Species Act of 1973, under which all federal agencies, including TVA, are required to consult with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service concerning the effects of its actions on species listed by the Service, as well as carryout conservation programs for listed species.

### WETLAND MANAGEMENT

The Wetland Management Program seeks to implement a proactive approach to identify, manage, and protect wetlands on TVA lands. TVA maintains a wetland database that contains information on wetlands to support informed decision making during the review of proposed actions throughout the Tennessee River watershed and power service area.



### SENSITIVE RESOURCES DATA

TVA's sensitive resource data is maintained through the TVA Natural Heritage database. The TVA Natural Heritage database is a biological database that contains an ecological inventory of rare plants, animals, natural communities, natural areas, and other sensitive natural resource features.

### NATURAL AREAS MANAGEMENT

Through this program TVA manages natural areas which are ecologically significant sites, lands set aside for particular management objectives, and lands that contain sensitive

biological, cultural, or scenic resources. The TVA Natural Areas Management Program includes small wild areas, habitat protection areas, wildlife observation areas, and ecological study areas.

### GRASSLANDS AND AGRICULTURAL LANDS MANAGEMENT

Through the Grasslands and Agricultural Lands Management Program TVA's non-forested lands (e.g., plant communities and the wildlife they support) are maintained and enhanced through stewardship efforts. Management of these lands provides habitat diversity of plant and animal communities as well as other environmental benefits.

### DEWATERING PROJECTS

Through the Dewatering Projects Program TVA operates nine dewatering areas on Kentucky and Wheeler reservoirs. A dewatering area is an area that is seasonally flooded as part of a waterfowl management program created and operated by TVA and its partners. The projects are operated as part of the Tennessee and Wheeler National Wildlife Refuges and State Wildlife Management Areas.

### FOREST RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

In the Forest Resource Management Program TVA oversees forest resources by developing management plans to balance multiple uses such as enhancing habitat, managing vegetation and controlling exotic, invasive plant species.



### CONSERVATION PLANNING

Conservation planning efforts are carried out by local, state, and federal agencies as well as by nongovernmental organizations and others. Through this program TVA will support and participate in these interagency efforts to develop stewardship strategies on public lands.